

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Antoine Felix-Henry

Serial No.: 10/568,023

Filed: March 24, 2006

Confirmation No.: 1111

Date: December 20, 2010

Group Art Unit: 3754

Examiner: James F. Hook

For: METHOD FOR REMOVAL OF PERMEATE GASES FROM A FLEXIBLE
TUBULAR PIPE AND PIPE EMBODIED OR CARRYING OUT THE SAME

VIA EFS-WEB

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of Examiner Hook in granting a telephone interview with Applicants undersigned representative, held Thursday December 16, 2010. The following is a brief summary of that interview.

Applicant argued that the proposed combination did not teach the claimed method in part because Cochran does not teach a flow of gas through the annular region of the dual pipe, but rather teaches sensing a leak by detecting a drop in pressure of the gas, which is otherwise held in the annular space as a blind chamber. Therefore, Cochran does not teach or suggest “entrainment” by injection of a flowing inert gas, as recited in independent claim 1. Examiner acknowledged at least some ambiguity in the reference, and invited further expansion of this argument including citation to the reference to support the concept that there was no entrainment flow of the inert gas.

Applicant also proposed that claim 3, supplemented to include as feature of injecting the entrainment gas at the seabed, would distinguish over the proposed combination, in part because the combination relies upon Cochran to suggest insertion of an inert gas, but Cochran would be ambivalent as to where the gas was inserted in an undersea installation, because the field of use of Cochran was very different from that of Loper, or the claimed method. Examiner acknowledged that Cochran did not suggest injection of gas on a seabed, but deferred any further opinion on the patentability of the claims pending further review.

Examiner invited Applicant to expand the arguments in the written response to the Office Action. No further agreement was reached.

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RCF/DJT:lf

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Torrente
Registration No. 49,099
OSTROLENK FABER LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700